THE GENESEE FARMER.

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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1836.

Our Correspondence.

It always gives us pleasure to have the opinions of practical farmers on agricultural subjects, even when they differ from our own; for collisions of sentiment may elicit truths of great importance. In such cases, we are stimulated to examine the grounds of our conclusions, and sometimes to make experiments which when judiciously conducted, always enlarge the bounda-ries of knowledge. With this brief introduction, we exhibit to our readers, extracts from a letter just received, and which was written by a Pennsylvania farmer who attends to his own business.

Two Crops at once on the Ground.

"Three years ago, I was persuaded to plant potatoes between the rows of Indian Corn. The field had been well dressed with both lime and stable manure, and the ground well cultivated; yet the result was less than half a crop of either corn or potatoes; and my maxim has since been ONE CROP AT A TIME. It is all that we can reasonably look for; and so far as my knowledge has extended, every attempt at *double cropping* has ended in disappointment."

Spreading Stable Manure.

"I cannot subscribe to the doctrine of hauling out stable manure, and leaving it in heaps until we are ready to plough it under. It will ferment. The sooner it is spread after being disturbed, the better; and from often repeated experiments, my best crops have uniformly been where the dung was spread as fast as it was hauled, though it lay exposed to both sun and rain for some days—in a few instances for several weeks before it was ploughed under. The same kind of manure which lay in heaps unspread till the day it was ploughed under, produced a very inferior crop. I have not been able to discover that manure when spread abroad ready for the plough, sustains any great loss from evaporation—or at least not so much as from fermentation while lying in heaps after it has been disturbed, for dung undergoes a fresh fermentation every time it is moved and then left in bulk. If it lies spread evenly over the surface however, its strength is carried into the soil by the rains."

The above suggestions appear reasonable; and whether the experience of others will accord with these results or not, we think his suggestions are worthy of careful examination. The experiments can be easily repeated; and we hope that farmers will not prejudge the case, but patiently examine for themselves. Well directed attention to matters, often deemed trivial, like the diligent hand, maketh rich.

Culture of Potatoes.

"Farmers who raise potatoes extensively within ten or twelve miles of Philadelphia—that is to say from ten to fifteen acres each—find that two furrows between the rows, are better than three furrows between them; and that in the former way, more potatoes are yielded to the acre. The sets are dropped a foot apart, and covered by the next furrow. The ground is plentifully manured with dung hauled from the city. After the crop is dug, another coat of manure is applied, and the ground sowed with wheat, or sometimes rye. They consider the latter crop to be equally profitable with wheat, and sometimes more so, as they sell both grain and straw, carrying dung from the city to keep up the fertility of the land."

We presume that those farmers who manure so highly, would be greatly surprised to learn that in some parts of this district, we grow excellent crops of potatoes without any stable manure. A next neighbor of ours, had more than five hundred bushels to the acre in this way. Should inquiry be made, how the fertility of our lands can be sustained, we should answer by *liming:* Nature has done for us what farmers in less favored countries must do for themselves, or work to a great disadvantage; and we are persuaded that even in this quarter there is no extensive tract to which lime may not be profitably applied. In all our sandy soils it is greatly needed.

Prospect of Crops.

"Early sowed Rye is generally killed, having been smothered by the snow; but of late sowed, about four-fifths has escaped, and now looks very promising. Wheat crops look well, and the appearance of grass is very fine."

Fattening Hogs.

"In the past season, three of my fatted hogs were kept several weeks longer than the others, and when slaughtered were found to have gained about three pounds a day at an expense of twelve cents worth of corn. The pork was worth eight cents a pound, which was double the value of the corn. it is clearly proved to us at least, that hogs may be profitably fattened on corn, their manure compensating for all the trouble of feeding them. * * * It is a poor business to kill hogs half fattened. Any thing that is worth doing at all, is worth doing well. Those half way measures are the bane of agricultural prosperity, and ruin many who have not moral courage enough to do their work thoroughly."

Saving Manures.

In what part of the country is it that the roads in particular spots, are better manured than the fields? where ashes from the hearth or the leach tub—where the sweepings of the smith-shop and coal-house—where the refuse lime and lime mortar—where the paring of leather from the shoemaker's bench, and various other fertilizing substances,—are all thrown under foot in the highway? We could tell, and so could most of our readers; yet every good cultivator among them, cannot fail to know that these are very wasteful practices for those who have fields or gardens.

The importance of manures however, is a matter of which most farmers might profitably learn something more. The best soil is commonly a very compounded mass. Where are the most fertile soils generally found in a state of nature? Along gentle streams which on overflowing their banks, allow the washing of the uplands to settle; and which are chiefly mixtures of clay and sand, of vegetable and animal matters. Or along the bases of hills where disintegrated limestone forms a part of the deposits. We have seen on the side of a high hill, the edge of a horizontal stratum of this rock, laid bare; and while all *above* was thin and comparatively barren, all the soil *below* was fertile in a high degree. Let us remember that *insoluble* manures for all practical purposes, are imperishable; and though the quantity of lime that annually washed down the hill was very small, yet in the lapse of ages, enough had accumulated to change the nature of the soil.

It has been well remarked by a late writer, in speaking of soils highly charged with lime, that they are to the husbandman what labor-saving machines are to the mechanic—engines by which the *greatest* possible return may be obtained by the *least* expenditure of labor. And what man knowing this, would throw old mortar or refuse lime into the road when his field or his garden was at hand? In many cases, it is almost as easy to save as to waste.

Most of the following extracts, though somewhat miscellaneous, will be found to illustrate the subject of saving manures:

Manuring with Woolen Rags.

"The roots of plants naturally possess to a considerable degree the power of producing decomposition, as I have had occasion more than once to observe in the case of planting potatoes with woolen rags instead of dung. I have seen fine crops of potatoes raised by dropping a small piece of woolen rag not larger than the hand, in the furrow along with every set of the potatoes when planted; and I have observed when the potatoes were gathered in the fall, that in every instance where a potatoe plant had failed to vegetate, the rag was turned up entire, very little damaged by being buried under ground; whereas on the other hand, not the smallest vestige of the rags were to be seen in any part of the ground where the plants had succeeded and grown to perfection."—*J. Lang in the Philidelphia Mencoirs, &c.*

"Before the revolution war, I collected many cart loads of taylor's rags, chiefly woolen. Some I had cut in small pieces; others were ploughed in as they came from the shops, after having been scattered by hand so as barely to cover the surface of about three acres of loamy land, much worn. I had a remarkable fine crop of potatoes, succeeded by a great crop of wheat. On this clover was sowed. It lay for many years without other manure except plaster, in green grass after the clover. The effect of the rags continued longer than those of any manure I ever experienced."—*R. Peters in do.*

A Reservoir for Manure.

"I have lately seen the practice of digging a hole behind the kitchens of farm-houses, at the

distance of twenty or thirty feet; and of the bigness of about fifteen or seventeen feet in diameter, and about three feet deep in the middle. This hole is filled with turf or dirt from the street or some hollow, (the richer the turf or dirt the better,) and from the sink in the kitchen, all the dirty and dish water runs into this hole, all the soap-suds or waters in which clothes have been washed is conveyed to this hole, all the dirty ashes, lime, chamber-lye, or any thing from the house which has a tendency to make manure, are thrown on this dirt. In short it is a common receptacle for all dirt and filth of the house. In the fall of the year the contents of this hole are carted away, and used for manure in raising wheat. The hole is immediately filled up again with turf or dirt, to be prepared for another year. Some farmers make twenty tons of this manure in one year, which is more than is made by a small stock of cattle."—*E. L'Hommedieu in the New York Transactions, &c.*

We would remark that the hole or basin ought to be much further from the dwelling-house; and in choosing the spot, a due regard should be had to the prevailing winds. The quantity of lime to be applied should be liberal, and not dependent on adventitious circumstances. It should be spread on the *surface* of the turf or rich earth.

Thorough Tillage.

"Much manure may be saved by good tilling. Ground well tilled will not take half the manure for a crop as ground of the same quality prepared in the usual way. I know a farmer in Suffolk county who had always better crops of flax than his neighbors upon land not superior to theirs; and being asked the reason, he answered it was because *he always harrowed his ground three times over after it was harrowed enough.*

"As I have mentioned harrowing, I will make an observation which may be of use: The faster your harrow goes over the ground the better—a quick stroke against the clods, breaks them much easier than a slow motion; harrowing with horses is to be preferred to harrowing with oxen, because they move quicker. With a light harrow the horses may go on a trot, which will break the clods much finer than when they go on a walk. This I have seen done to good purpose."—*E. L'Hommedieu.*

The practice of the Suffolk county farmer reminds us of the Dutchman's advice, who was also famous for raising good flax: "You must harrow it, and harrow it, and harrow it, and then it is not half a quarter enough." There is more good sense in such practice than many farmers seem willing to believe; and who, when they have covered the seed, think they have done quite enough. From the same writer we add: "The best tilled lands, or those lands where the parts are made the finest, bear the drouth much better than lands poorly tilled; and the best ploughed and hoed Indian corn, always bears the drouth best."

Poaching Light Soils.

These remarks apply however, more particularly to heavy soils. Lord Kains recommended light sandy soils to be *poached* by the feet of cattle in wet weather, as this operation gave the ground a firmness which was found to be very beneficial to succeeding crops. The following case we consider an exemplification of this doctrine:

"Some lands are too open and loose; the parts are too far separated for much vegetation; this may be occasioned by continual manuring and pulverizing. On Connecticut River, I saw a farmer yarding his cattle early in the spring, in his onion garden, and asked him for what purpose they were put in: he answered, to tread the land, and that the garden would not produce well after a number of years, unless it was trod; but the reason of it he did not know."—*E. L'Hommedieu.*

A Bed for Manure.

The following recommendation appears to be judicious; and the writer says he has seen it practiced to great advantage:

"In the spring plough up a piece of ground proportionally large to the number of cows and other cattle you intend to yard during the summer. Let it be long and narrow for the convenience of ploughing. This being fenced, yard your cattle in it for two or three weeks; then plough up the whole again; and continue this practice till the time of sowing wheat; then cart away all the dirt as deep as was ploughed, on your wheat field, and spread and harrow it in with the wheat. By this means you get ten times more profit than you can make by yarding your cattle in the cow-yard, or on unploughed ground. This ploughed ground, being made mellow, absorbs the stale and dung of the cattle."—*E. L'Hommedieu.*

Culture of Potatoes.

The soil for potatoes, is one which is light, moist, and rich. They are not so productive on a light *dry* soil, nor are they generally equal in quality, as they are liable to be injured by the heat of the sun. The largest should always be selected for seed, and the smallest rejected, because a feeble parent will always produce a feeble offspring, whether it be a plant or animal. Where there will be a sufficient supply of moisture after planting, the potatoes should be cut into several pieces; for as the future product depends on the perfection of the *eye* (or bud) which may properly be considered the embryo plant, and as this will be always large and perfectly formed in large potatoes, (and feeble and imperfect in small ones,) the perfection of this embryo will still be preserved, though the potatoe be cut in pieces. Hence a scoop is used in Europe to take out the eyes, which are planted, while the remainder is reserved for food. Hence also rooted sprouts will grow in a proper soil and produce good crops. The principal office of the fleshy part of the potatoe appears to be, to furnish nourishment and moisture until the shoot has sent out its roots into the soil, after which it is of little use. Consequently where planting is followed by a moist season, or where the planting is deep and the soil not liable to be affected by drouth, it is best to cut them, so as to leave but few eyes in the hill; there will then be a less number of stalks, and the potatoes will be larger and not so numerous, and the crop on the whole much superior. But where a drouth succeeds planting, or where the seed are liable from the nature of the soil to be injured by drouth, they should be left whole, in order to prevent the moisture escaping from them through the cut surface, and thus causing them to become shriveled and spoiled. In conversing recently with an intelligent farmer on this subject, he stated that he had planted a crop, a part with cut and the remainder with uncut potatoes; that the succeeding season was a dry one, and the result was, that the plants from the uncut potatoes were several inches above ground before the other had reached the surface, and that they yielded a crop double that of the cut potatoes.

Potatoes should be very little hilled at the first dressing, and none afterwards. This plant is furnished with two sets of roots, one of which strikes down into the earth and supplies nourishment to the plant; the other runs in a horizontal direction, and produces the young tubers or potatoes. These latter are near the surface and require warmth and air to a certain extent, and if covered deep after the young potatoes are formed, are retarded in growth or entirely checked, and the plant sends out new ones nearer the surface. Hilling thus increases the number of roots but diminishes the size.

Plastering Corn.

The following statement of some experiments performed many years ago by John Taylor, of Port Royal, Virginia, may furnish some seasonable and valuable hints to those farmers who have not yet planted their crops of corn.

A bushel of plaster was mixed with an equal quantity of seed corn, keeping it wet while planting. Forty acres were planted with seed thus prepared, except eight rows through the center, which were unplastered. The soil was poor. The inferiority of these eight rows was visible from the moment the corn was up, to its being gathered.

In another experiment, the seed corn of two hundred acres were in like manner rolled in plaster, leaving eight rows across the field, so as to intersect flat, hilly, sandy, stiff, rich and poor land. Their inferiority was so visible, that from an eminence in the field, a stranger could point out the eight rows from the time the corn was three inches high, until it was all in tassel. In this experiment, the eight rows were a week later than the plastered corn. The plastered corn stood best, was the forwardest, and produced the greatest crop. Its fodder dried about ten days sooner.

In a subsequent experiment, the corn was plastered as before, and planted on *moist* land. The crop was injured by too much rain, and the difference was not perceptible. In another experiment, two quarts of heated tar were mixed with one bushel of seed, and plastered as before. The effect was equally favorable as in the two first experiments. This preparation was made to prevent the ravages of mice, moles, and birds, on land where the first crop had been destroyed by them, and proved a very efficacious remedy.

Dropping Corn.

Provide a small cup (with a convenient handle) just large enough to take up the desired number of grains; this may be made of tin plate,—or it may be made of wood, either by boring an auger hole into the side of a small piece af wood, and dressing it off to a proper shape, or by cutting off a stalk of elder about an inch in diameter, just below a limb, which is to form the handle, hollowing it out above to the requisite size, and pearing the upper edge thin. By taking a basket in the left hand and this in the right, a little boy may drop faster, and more accurately as it regards number, than a man can by the common mode with the hand.

Farming by Signs.

Some two or three thousand years ago, Thales, Anaximander, and Pythagorus, surveyed off the heavens, classified and numbered the stars visible to the naked eye, and divided the whole into constellations or clusters, named after the animals or objects they were thought to resemble. The sun in its course through the ecliptic, or its yearly path around the heavens, passes through twelve of

these constellations. This arrangement of the stars was well enough, and probably as convenient as any other, since it has since been universally adopted, and had the matter rested there, all would have been well. With the advance of Astronomy however, arose a class of men, who engrafted upon the theory of the heavens that of Astrology, and speedily blended the truths of astronomical discovery with the gross superstitions and wild chimeras so common in those ages. Among these superstitions was the belief that each of the signs of the Zodiac, or the constellations through which the sun successively passed, exerted in their turn upon the whole of organized nature, animate as well as inanimate, men as well as brutes, a predominant influence; and the discovery of this particular influence, and the best methods of making it subservient to purposes of good or evil, gave to the professors of astrology a sway over the minds of men difficult to be understood, now that its power has partially passed away.

In modern times it has been customary to illustrate the influence supposed to be exercised by the signs of the Zodiac, and the parts of the human system they in turn govern, by figuring in the fore part of the Almanac a naked man, either seated on a globe or standing erect, with the signs from Aries to Pisces, regularly ranged around him. Placed as he was in the front of the Almanac, the man of signs long remained as prominent a character as the man in the moon, and between them both, well nigh made the world and all things therein their humble vassals. The farmer in particular was subject to their vexatious interference, as was shown in the case of the moon; nor was the influence of signs scarcely less despotic and injurious. Even now there are some so far behind the age as to habitually consult the signs, and govern themselves by the ridiculous sanctions imposed during the long reign of barbarism and superstition.

In traveling about the country there is generally but little difficulty in determining whether the owner of a farm is governed by signs, or by a well regulated system. If such a man has a fence, the corners of which are filled with bushes, a spreading patch of blackberry briars in the middle of his field, or an acre of Canada thistles, the tops of which are fast ripening their seed, and preparing a harvest of vexation and toil for his neighbors, he meddles with none of them until he has first ascertained that the sign is in the heart; and when the proper time in his estimation arrives, and he assails them, if he does so at all, with bush-hook and sythe, it is very probable loses half the benefit of cutting them earlier, by the delay produced by his superstitious observance of signs. How many acres of white birches and shrub-oaks in the eastern states, and briers and thistles in the western ones, have been reprieved, and flourished year after year, because the owners were not ready to cut them when the sign was right, and believed the operation would do no good if performed at any other time.

If, too, in your peregrinations you find the street or highway obstructed by a drove of fifteen or twenty scurfy boar pigs, enough to ruin their owner, and cause all the Christian neighbors to swear with pure vexation, you may generally rest assured, that the man who should feed them is a believer in signs, and is waiting the proper time to put, with the castrating knife, a period to their roving and mischievous propensities. With such persons it is almost a criminal offence to alter a pig, calf, or colt, without reference to the signs; and yet these are the very men who suffer the most losses fram these necessary operations.

We can remember the time, when, as the sun approached the constellation of Leo, the doors of the physician and surgeon were thronged with patients—persons who, believing in a short life and a merry one, were anxious, now the sign was right, to have the cold blood of winter drawn off, that they might replace it by a more generous fluid, produced by imbibing old port, cherry brandy, or that refuge of the vulgar, gin sling. Now-a-days people eschew the ardent, and are bled whenever it pleaseth them—two things by which they are materially bettered both in body and purse.

There is a positive pleasure in witnessing the wasting away of these old superstitions before the sun of religion and science, and the mind of man gradually rising to the perception of truths which should long since have been acknowledged. One of the surest signs that men are becoming wiser in some respects, if not in others, than they formerly were; and that their notions and follies, if not entirely shaken off, have been diverted into more rational channels, is found in the fact, that few men are willing to confess they are influenced in their operations by the moon or by signs. Farmers in most cases are content to let such things pass unheeded, confident that the surest foundations of success are laid in deep ploughing, thorough manuring, and a competent knowledge of the principles of good husbandry. G.

Orchard Grass.

Next to the clovers red and white, herds grass and timothy, the grass that appears best to repay cultivation in the northern states, is the orchard grass of the north, or cocksfoot grass, as it is sometimes called in the middle states. Its valuable qualities consist in its early growth, the rapidity with which it springs up when fed or cut down, the quantity it produces on light soils, and the covering it affords soils which are apt to suffer after mowing from exposure to the sun. When allowed to become old and dry, it does not appear to make as good hay, or be as palatable to horses or other stock, as the first mentioned grasses; indeed, to derive the full benefit of orchard grass, frequent mowing, or constant cropping, is requisite. For a second mowing, or crop of rowan, the orchard grass is unequaled.

Orchard grass is excellent for sowing with clover on all soils, but especially on dry ones, as when mown with the other it springs up so rapidly as to preserve the clover roots from drying up as they frequently do, and thus prevents the retardation in growth, or death of the plants, that so often ensues. Judge Peters of Pennsylvania, one of the first agriculturists in this country, says, "that on uplands it is preferable to timothy, and that when sown with clover, it endures in uninterrupted vigor and usefulness, when the latter in dry seasons is burned or shriveled." W. H. Johnson, of the same state, and a practical farmer, says—"*As a pasture grass it is without a rival.* Unlike timothy, or herd, or clover, when cut its growth is one continued effort of vegetation. The new shoot springs immediately out of the blade, and with such a rapidity that I have known in a rich soil, during eleven or twelve days, an average growth of more than an inch per day. Of all the grasses with which I am acquainted, it is the first to grow in the spring, and continues to flourish the last in the fall. It is soft, sweet and nutritious, and when growing with other grasses, it is observed that stock most generally give it a decided preference.

We have for a number of years been in the habit of cultivating this grass, and can cheerfully add our testimony to the above statement of its good qualities, and would further add, that, as its name imports, it is superior to any other grass for orchards, groves, or fields containing great numbers of shade trees, as under such it flourishes nearly as well as in the open air. The only serious objections we have ever known made to its use were, that by being sown with or without clover, it would form an obstacle to the usual rotation of crops adopted in our wheat growing sections, and that when sown on our lands it too frequently grew in tufts, rather than in a thick close sward. That it can ever be profitably introduced on lands on which it is intended to raise a crop of wheat as often as once in three years we do no not imagine; in such cases clover and nothing but clover should be used, as on this the fertilizing powers of manure and plaster can be most profitably exerted. But there is on almost every farm fields that cannot and ought not to be subjected to the rotation system, and here the orchard grass may be invaluable. On farms, too, intended for grazing, the orchard grass will prove a most important auxiliary, and one which we think will be more valued and appreciated the more it is used and cultivated. The rapidity with which it throws out new leaves after cutting is almost incredible, and should be witnessed by all who would understand the vegetative powers of plants. As to its growing in tufts: this is true, as it is generally sown, but the difficulty we think lies in not having a sufficient quantity of seed put on an acre. If put on thick enough, it grows no more in tufts than the other grasses, and spreads in the same manner. When thinly sown with timothy or clover, it grows so much more rapidly after cutting than the others, that a field necessarily assumes a tufted appearance, but this produces no injury whatever, and is indeed beneficial to the grasses with which it is associated.

Orchard grass seed should be cut rather early, and carefully dried, as otherwise it is apt to fall out and be lost. Where it is intended to be mown, the seed when ripe may be cut clean with a cradle, and thus secured, and the bottom then cut with a sythe, as usually performed. The seed is quite light, not often weighing more than 14 or 15 pounds to the bushel; and should be sown in still weather, that the action of the winds in unequally scattering it may be prevented. It has been ascertained that for seed lots, two bushels should be sowed to the acre; and for the sythe or for pasture, the mixture should be one bushel of orchard grass nad one of timothy seed, sown either in the spring or fall, and over which should be scattered four quarts of clover seed in the month of March. G.

COMMUNICATIONS.

A Leaf from the Note Book of a Farmer.

NUMBER TWO.

Mr. Tucker—I sent you a few weeks since, a leaf from the note book of a farmer, with a partial promise if that was inserted, others might be expected to follow. As a fulfilment I enclose the following additional notes on subjects connected with farming.

Mem. Always to plough deep. This principle in farming is I think fully justified, both by the deductions of sound philosophy, and the results of experience. Correct theory teaches deep ploughing—and how? From the nature of soil. Soil is a few of the primitive earths, such as sand, lime, and clay, intimately mixed and blended with decayed vegetable or animal matter. These primitive earths when pure are entirely unfit to support vegetation; hence the value and richness of soil depends in a great measure on the quantity of decayed matter added. In a soil naturally good, this mixture of the earths with decayed matter or manure, has been performed by nature, as on the Genesee flats, or some loamy soils peculiarly rich and deep. Where this union has not been so completely or so deeply effected by nature, it is the province of art to supply the deficiency, and this the skilful farmer will do with the plough. The substances which, from the nature or the hardness of the earth, would lie unrotted on the surface, or if rotted unincorporated, he with the plough places it under the surface, where it can become food for plants. Just so far as the plough loosens the earth, and prepares it for mixing with the manure, which in all such cases should be liberally applied, just so far is it converted from dead inert earth into soil capable of affording root and nourishment to plants.

Deep ploughing is justified by experience. I have never known a farmer whose crops were above the average, and whose soil was constantly increasing in richness and productiveness, who did not plough deep. As the soil of their farms has by annual deep ploughing become deep, in exact proportion has the proceeds, and of course profits, of their farms increased. It is said by some who practice shallow ploughing, why disturb the cold dead earth—it is no advantage to plants, and it had better be left unmolested? I would disturb the inert earth this year, and combine it with decayed matter, that it may be converted into soil, and cease to be inert another year. I would plough deep, so that the earth turned into soil may be in a situation to be penetrated by the roots of plants, and thus these be secured from the drouth and other evils so frequently fatal to those plants grown in land subjected to shallow ploughing, and of course hard within a few inches of the surface. I would continue to plough deep and apply manure until the plough can run beam deep in fertile soil, and no half starved or pigmy plants or crops find an excuse for their existence in the shallow ploughed and impenetrable earth below them.

Mem. If I employ hired men, and go into the field with them, as every farmer must do who would have his work done to suit him, I will never allow them to take the lead to the field, or when they are in it. A laborer is generally satisfied if he follows where his employer leads; and few, when properly treated by him, are found so destitute of emulation as to be willing to do less. The tailor in London who, having a heavy contract of army clothing to finish in a limited time, prohibited his journeymen from singing Old Hundred, and introduced in the place of it Nancy Dawson and Old Lang Syne, understood mankind, and the true mode of accelerating work, much better than many who make far higher pretensions. Too many farmers act as if they had but a single object in view, the greatest amount of labor with the least possible expenditure; the idea of comfort and living well do not appear to enter at all into their calculations. Luxurious living, even if within his means, the farmer will devoutly eschew, and with it the accumulated mass of evils and diseases that follow in its train; but surely, if there is any man entitled to live well, to enjoy the privilege of plain, nourishing, but substantial diet, in abundance and at all times, the industrious tiller of the soil is the man.

Mem. Never to cultivate in a year one species of grain to the exclusion of all others. For instance, to raise this year all corn, next year all wheat, and the third year oats, or some other grain, is a course of farming that will not do. It is placing the success of a year's labor on the farm, on the hazard of a single die; if one crop fails all is lost. Besides, this system compels a man in nearly every case to purchase all his seed, a most serious drawback on the profits of a farm. I have never known a farmer who followed as a system this mode of farming, who did not eventually find himself coming out at the little end of the horn. Change of crops, or as some call it, rotation of crops, is the true system of agriculture; but it must be managed in a way that will give each kind of grain, and each part of the farm, its regular course, and proportionate occupation.

Mem. Always to avail myself of every accessible means of obtaining information respecting my business, and never to allow false pride to prevent my asking or receiving the useful lessons on husbandry, which the better informed, or the more experienced, are able to communicate. To acknowledge that we were ignorant, or have erred in the past, is only saying that we are wiser to-day than we were yesterday. The private investigations, and public discussions of men of intelligence, scarcely fail of throwing light on other subjects, and I do not see why the business of farming should be excluded from the pale of improvement by such means. I can see no reason why the boy, or young man, as soon as he is able to hold a plough, or turn a furrow decently, should deem himself master of the whole science of agriculture, and beyond the reach of instruction or improvement; and on the other hand, I can see no cause why the closet or amateur farmer should hold in disrespect, or speak contemptuously of the knowledge of his less learned, but more practically instructed neighbor. It shall be my object to profit by both, —by the man of books and the man of experience—by the philosopher and the laborer. Truth is truth, and as it is not the less valuable because received from the rough hands of a ploughman, so it loses none of its intrinsic excellence when gathered from the pages of an agricultural journal, or from the library of the student and philosopher. Observer.

Farm Stock.

BY O. P. Q.

It is a pitiable sight to go about the country and see the multitudes of poor cattle, which fill almost every farmer's yards in the spring of the year. The uncommon severity of the past winter is the ostensible cause of so much poverty among cattle, but the true source of the evil is, I think of earlier origin. Farmers almost universally, in this wheat growing district, keep too much stock. Many are the farmers whose whole stock of cattle and young horses would not pay for the hay they have eaten during the last winter. Of this fact very many are now sensible, and are determined to diminish their stock at all hazards, and some are even now selling their cows, the only part which will avail them any thing the comming season, to drovers for $12 to $16, a less sum than the cost of their keeping during the winter.

Yet many of these farmers who have been so pinched this spring, will most likely, as soon as grass comes, forget their troubles and their resolves, and as their calves are dropped will say, "Well, it is a pity to knock in head such a pretty calf as that; I can't spare the milk to fat him, but I can bring him up on skim-milk,"—and thus he is suffered to live, a skim-milk calf sure enough—and the next, and next, and so on to the last, are suffered to live in the same way. They pass the summer very well, but the first snow squall in November, fetches them up under the windward side of the fence, bleating and moaning most piteously. Then the wants, the trials, and privations of the last winter come up before our farmers in full view. He remembers his determination of reducing his stock; but what can be done?—it is too late now to sell. His three years old steers might have been sold perhaps two months ago, but no drovers are seen this time of the year. "Well, I have got a plenty of straw, and I guess they'll do;" and on he goes the same round, annually feeding out more worth of hay than his whole stock will amont to, and if he sells any it is in the spring, in the very last pinch; when sure enough, twelve dollars is a fair price for the best he has in his yard. This is indeed a sad picture, but is it not a true one of at least half of all the farmers in this wheat growing section? Hay is high, always high, and so are corn and oats. Good cattle too are high; a prime yoke of oxen, or a first rate cow, that has been stabled through the winter, and fed on ruta baga, mangel wurtzel and meal, morning and night, will fetch a good price. So does young cattle of the improved breed. But who among us farmers is willing to pay five dollars for the service of an imported improved Durham bull? Scarcely one in fifty will do it. They had rather breed *in-and-in*, as the English breeders term it, that is, from a bull of their own raising, whose only recommend may be, that he was forgetten at the time he ought to have been castrated, and was too wild and unmanageable to submit to it afterwards.

Our farms are many of them overstocked with

young horses, although our breeds of horses are far in advance of our cattle; very many of us keep more than we keep well. Many farmers have an old mare, and four or five colts, which endure the severity of the winter with no other shelter than the leeward side of a hay-stack, and which in the spring bear a strong resemblance to the Florida cattle, so ably described by one of your correspondents, of which it takes three to make a shadow. These of course no one expects to dispose of until they are broken and fit for service. It might seem that the severe lesson of the last winter would have some abiding effect upon farmers, but probably few will profit by it.

Those farmers who are too poor to take an agricultural paper, who wont even take your *Monthly*, because forsooth they know now more about farming than they can put in practice—these men will probably do as they have always done—complain of our hard winters, and say they must sell out and go farther south, where the *winters will not eat up the summers;* whereas, if they would only buy the fourth and fifth volumes of the Genesee Farmer, and read attentively the many excellent articles on cattle, they would either give up the raising of cattle at all, and raise only sheep, or they would raise such cattle as would sell at any time, and at a fair price. O. P. Q.

East Bloomfield, April 30, 1830.

Barn Yards.

BY J. D.

Mr. Tucker—The attention of the farmer should be directed to every object that will improve his business, and render it more profitable, respectable, and pleasant. I think there is no one thing that will do so much for the accomplishment of these objects, as for farmers to write on subjects on business upon which they are engaged, thereby giving their views upon the various modes of operating in the different departments of farming. There are few who are not capable of doing this in an intelligible manner, although in every communication a good style is desirable, yet it is not so important as the *ideas* advanced.

If agriculturists would practice writing for publication monthly, or which would be better, semi-monthly, the benefit to themselves and to others would be incalculable. It would afford me pleasure to treat at some length on the means by which agriculture in general might be improved—the subject however on which I intend to make a few remarks, is the construction of barn-yards, as the manner in which some are constructed I think demands a little attention.

In constructing barn-yards, there are several things to be taken into consideration. 1st. The mode which will effect the health of the stock most favorably. 2d. The mode which will allow the least waste of manure, either from evaporation or otherwise. 3d. The mode which will be the most convenient; and 4th. The mode which will be the most pleasant to those concerned.

It will be admitted that the mode which combines the most of these advantages is the best one. The following modes are extensively practiced: Some are hollowed, for the purpose of preserving the urine and other parts, which it is said would otherwise be lost; some are level, and others again are rounded.

These modes are all seen to be very different, and each of them cannot combine the most of the above mentioned advantages, unless different causes can produce the same effects under the same circumstances, which is untrue; consequently I think the subject requires some attention.

I do not think of any advantages to be derived from hollow yards, except they make swimming ponds for geese, and this only in wet weather, when it ceases to be an advantage; but on the contrary combine many disadvantages, among which are the following:

1. *They cause a greater loss of manure than other methods.* Whenever there comes a storm, the hollow is filled, at least nearly filled, with water; in a few days the yard becomes dry again. The explanation is, that it has gone off in the form of vapor, and not only the water, but a great quantity of manure in connection with it, and of the best quality, for it is not to be supposed that manure can stand and soak for a length of time, and thus mix or unite with water, without evaporating with it. Frequently the water remains for weeks coming in, and the consequent mixture going off in the form of vapor, and thus is wasted; and after a yard of manure has remained some time in this condition, a great proportion of its fertilizing properties must inevitably be lost. If any are disposed to doubt these facts, let them try the following experiment, which is simlar in principle. Take a quantity of tea, put it in a vessel set in the open air, let it be filled with water, and when the water has evaporated, try a drawing of it, and see if it be not weakened; but should it remain in this state three or four months, it would not only be found to have lost all its best qualities, but a great proportion of its weight also. And thus it is with manure.

2. *They are more unhealthy for stock.* That cattle and other stock, particularly sheep, are more healthy in a dry yard than in a wet one, experience has always clearly shown, and needs no proof. The disadvantage in this particular, in a large stock of cattle and sheep, would be very great.

3. *They are more inconvenient.* Every practical man knows that it is very difficult feeding cattle and other stock in a wet yard, besides it cannot well be done without a waste of fodder; and if only a sufficient quantity is put out for the stock, and a part of that is wasted, they cannot do well.

4. *They are less pleasant.* To human beings it is very unpleasant to be about a barn where the mud is half leg deep, so that they can scarcely step without getting in over shoe, although to geese and ducks it is not. Every man should do all he can to make his business *pleasant*, as well as *profitable.*

We will close our remarks upon this popular, and yet most absurd practice, and proceed to the second, which are level yards.

On this it may be remarked, that they combine most of the evils of hollow yards, only in a less degree. But it is unnecessary however to say much on this method, as it has few advocates. People are generally in favor of hollow ones.

Those rounded up in the middle I propose to show combine the following advantages:

1. *They save in the best possible manner the manure.* If the yard is sufficiently rounded, when there comes a rain, instead of the water settling in the manure and soaking it, and then going off by the slow process of evaporation, it runs immediately off without taking with it much of the manure. It may be objected that that the urine will be lost; and this is in some degree true, and in a great degree untrue, for there would most of it be taken up by the coarse fodder, straw, &c., in the same way that a dry piece of sponge would take up a small quantity of water.

2. *It is more healthy for stock*, because more dry, as has been remarked before.

3. *It is more convenient.* It is evidently more convenient to get about a dry yard to feed the stock in it, and for other purposes, than a very muddy and wet one, besides the foddering can be done without much waste.

4. *It is more pleasant.* But as pleasure is all comparative, when we say that a place is unpleasant, we mean that it is not so pleasant as some other, and thus we have said that hollow and level yards are unpleasant, that is, they are not as pleasant as those rounded up.

I designed to have remarked further on the management of manure, &c., but my limits forbid. These subjects may by some be thought trifling, and the above remarks gratuitous, yet I think they form a part of the great science of agriculture, and are therefore submitted to your disposal. Yours, &c. J. D.

Manlius, April, 12, 1836.

Cultivating the Mulberry.

Mr. Tucker—As I think of going into the silk business to some extent, I wish some of your correspondents would give their comments upon the following method of cultivating the mulberry, extracted from the Family Encyclopedia, a work published in 1831. In short, I wish to know if experience has proved this as good a method as any other, and if not, what one is better, and particularly if there is no danger to be apprehended from the seeds not vegetating.

After stating the different modes of cultivating the mulberry, the writer goes on to state:

"Another mode of cultivating the mulberry, and one which has been to some extent practiced in New England, is to sow the seed broadcast like turneps in the spring; and in the following season to cut the plants with a sythe when wanted. The mowing is regularly prosecuted every morning in the quantity required, and unless the season is one of severe drouth, the field may be cut twice or thrice before the worms begin to wind up. The advantages of this mode are stated to be—

1. The leaves are gathered with less labor and expense, being cut and taken together like hay or grain.

2. The leaves are larger and more tender than on the grown tree, and the worms eat with more appetite, and produce more silk.

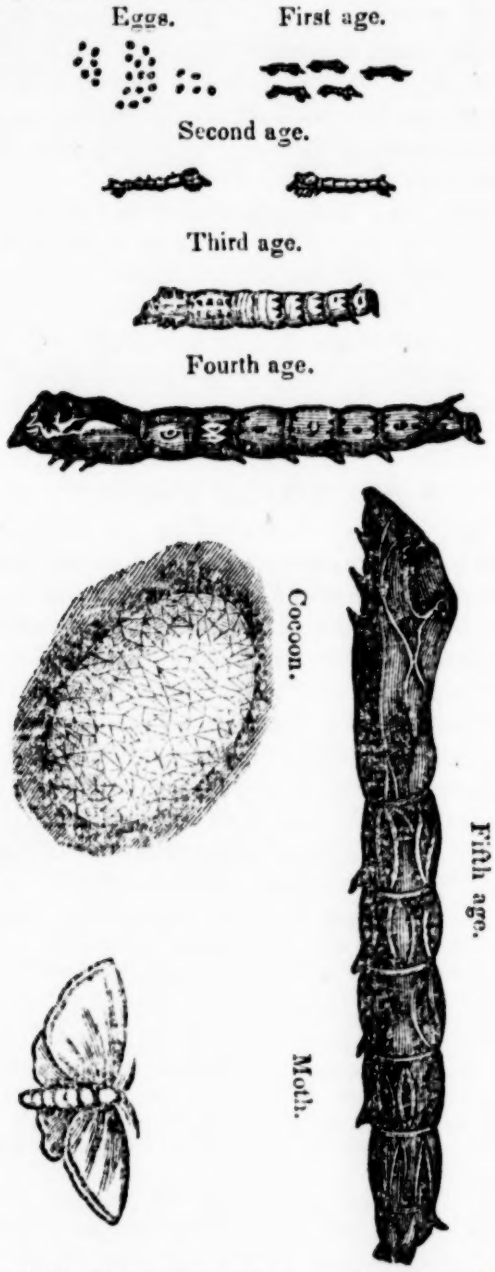
3. The time of gathering the supply is so short, that the leaves are got with the morning dew upon them, which is deemed by practical men an advantage. Other writres say the leaves when given to the worms should be dry.

4. More worms can be supported from a given piece of ground, and the mulberries are ready after one season, instead of waiting several years for the formation of an orchard." J. D.

From the Cultivator.

The Silk Business.

Eggs.—These are received densely clustered upon paper, where the parent moth has deposited them. It is well to remark here, that the product of these eggs, is a small caterpillar, which, after undergoing several metamorphoses, becomes again a moth, or sort of butterfly. "The color of the worm for the first eight or ten days after batching, is an obscure black. It casts its skin at stated periods, until it has attained its largest size, when it becomes yellow. It is about three inches long when full grown, covered with scattering hairs, and has a small fleshy tubercle on the upper end of the last ring. After constructing its cocoon, which is usually about the size of a pigeon's egg, and similar in shape, it is transformed into a chrysalis, and subsequently to a moth. After remaining in the cocoon about twenty days, it forces its way out, and dies immediately after depositing its eggs, to the number of 500 or more, which are attached together by a gummy substance. The several ages of the worm amount to thirty-two days, but have been known to extend to sixty." The cuts below show the appearance of the silk worm in its different stages, and of the moth.



"It is time to hatch the eggs when the mulberry leaves are about the bigness of the thumb,"—so says the maxim, and so says reason—for nature has fitted the young worms to subsist on the young leaves. Bring your eggs from the cellar, or wherever they have been deposited for safe keeping, and expose them to the action of the air of the sitting-room. In a day or two, the worms will begin to appear, and must be immediately fed with the young leaves of the mulberry, which may be laid upon them, after being chopped fine. It is best to place each day's hatching by themselves upon the shelves. They should be fed thrice a day with fresh, but dry leaves—neither wet nor wilted. To provide for wet days, pick the leaves when it is fair, and secure a supply in a glazed or other vessel in the cellar. Spread the leaves thin, and do not feed too much at a time. Particular attention must be paid to cleanliness, and the hurdles or shelves must be cleared at least after the four first moultings.

The silk-worm undergoes four changes, or moultings, at somewhat irregular periods; and at feeding them, exercise the same judgment that you would employ in pigs or neat cattle—give them enough, but no more than what they seem to relish and will eat up clean. We nevertheless subjoin a brief abstract of the rules which have been laid down for regulating the quantity per day, and every day. The estimate is calculated for the product of five ounces of eggs, 175 to 200,000

1*st day.* 3½ lbs. leaves, chopped, in four meals, at intervals of six hours, the smallest quantity first, and increasing.

2*d.* 6 lbs. chopped, in four meals.

3*d.* 12 lbs. do. do.

4*th.* 6½ lbs.—on the alleged ground, that as the appetite increases, the food should be diminished.

5*th.* 1½ lbs. chopped. The worms are torpid, and some begin to revive. *This generally completes the first age.*

6*th.* 9 lbs. tender shoots, and 9 lbs. leaves.

7*th.* 30 lbs. leaves, four meals, the two first the smallest.

8*th.* 33 lbs. leaves, two first largest.

9*th.* 9 lbs. leaves. The worms sink into a torpor, being about to cast their skins. *This completes the second age.*

10*th.* 15 lbs. of shoots, and 15 lbs. of leaves.

11*th.* 90 lbs. leaves, two first meals the smallest.

12*th.* 97 lbs. leaves, three first meals most plentiful.

13*th.* 52½ lbs. leaves, the largest meal first.

14*th.* 27 lbs. do. and more if necessary.

15*th.* On this day the worms arouse from their torpor, and *accomplish their third age.*

16*th.* 37½ lbs. of shoots, and 60 lbs. of leaves.

17*th.* 165 lbs. of leaves; two first meals the lightest.

18*th.* 225 lbs. do. do.

19*th.* 255 lbs. do. the three first 75 lbs each; the last 45.

20*th.* 128 lbs. do. the first the most liberal.

21*st.* 35 lbs. do.

22*d.* The worms rouse this day, and *accomplish their fourth age.*

23*d.* We find, in our books, no quantity stated for the 15th or 23d days.

24*th.* 270 lbs; the first meal 52, and the last 97 lbs.

25*th.* 420 lbs; first meal 77, the last 120 lbs.

26*th.* 540 lbs; first 120; last 150.

27*th.* 810 lbs; first 150; last 210.

28*th.* 975 lbs; the last meal the most plentiful.

29*th.* 900 lbs; the first the largest.

30*th.* 660 lbs; the largest meal first, 210 lbs., and gradually diminishing.

31*st.* 395 lbs; to be distributed as wanted.

32*d.* 240 lbs; to be given as wanted. This day the worms attain perfection, and prepare to wind. Some days previous to this, branches of chestnut, oak, or hickory, should be brought to the cocoonery, which should now be laid upon the shelves, and the worms will crawl upon them and form their cocoons.

The reason for the inequality in the daily supply of food, is owing to the moulting, when the worms become dormant, and lose their appetite in a measure. As they increase in size they must have more room allowed them, so that they are not crowded.

In gathering the cocoons, particular care must be had not to compress them, or leave any portion upon the branch. Select the largest and firmest for seed. Strip the floss from them, hang them in a warm airy room, and in two weeks the moths will emerge, copulate, and the females being placed upon paper, as they do not fly, will deposit their eggs. One hundred females will produce an ounce of eggs, enough for 20,000 to 40,000 silk worms. In the residue of the cocoons, which are intended for silk, the worms must be stifled, which is done by exposing them three or four days to the rays of the sun, and in various other ways. After the worms are smothered, the cocoons are to be spread thin upon shelves, in an airy chamber, and turned daily till they become perfectly dried. In transporting them to market, they should be handled carefully, and placed in tight boxes or barrels.

According to Mr. Roberts' calculation, an ounce of eggs will produce 20 000 cocoons; and fourteen ounces cocoons, one ounce eggs; 1,000 worms consume 50 lbs. leaves; nine pounds of cocoons will make about one pound of silk; 3,000 cocoons, about one pound silk, and 330 cocoons weigh one pound.

Collect the papers on which the eggs are laid, when quite dry, fold them up, and put them away in tin or other boxes, in thin layers. They should be kept dry, where they will not freeze, and where the temperature does not rise above 65°.

Ants, fowls, mice, rats, weazels, lizards and spiders, are all enemies to the silk-worm, and must be guarded against. Bad air, that is prejudicial to man, is also hurtful to them. Hence cleanliness and a free circulation of air, when the weather will permit it, are essential.

We omit, for the present, the process of reeling and manufacture, as none should attempt them, without personal instruction and the proper implements. Cocoons have sold for three to four dollars per bushel.

From the Cultivator.

Mode of Raising Cucumbers and Melons

ON CLAY SOIL.

J. Buel, Esq.—I take a good deal of interest in horticulture, and my most pleasant hours are spent in cultivating a small garden. The soil is a stiff clay loam, resting upon a loose gravel. I carried on sand and manured it highly, but for several years was unsuccessful in my attempts to raise melons and cucumbers. I became quite discouraged, and concluded I must give it up; but still thought it worth another trial. I prepared a spot of about forty feet square, by covering it with sand to the depth of six or eight inches, and a heavy coat of manure; it was then spaded about twelve inches deep, and well mixed together. On this spot I made eight hills by digging holes 18 inches deep, and two and a half feet diameter. These I filled with fresh stable manure, (in which was considerable straw,) even with the surface of the ground, well pressed down. I then brought from the woods a load of rich black mold, formed from decayed vegetables; with this was mixed an equal quantity of sand, and the hills covered to the depth of six or eight inches. The seeds were soaked between wet sods of grass, laid near the fire for about twelve hours, and then planted. I put over each a box of eight inches deep, of sufficient size to take four lights of ten by eight glass. In about thirty-six hours after planting they began to show themselves above the surface. The growth of the plants were rapid beyond any thing I had ever witnessed, and the seed leaves looked like those of pumpkins or squashes. As the weather become warmer, I removed the glass and substituted a covering of single foundation muslin, to prevent the ravages of insects. I succeeded beyond my most sanguine anticipations, and had as fine melons and cucumbers as are grown on Long Island or elsewhere. I have no doubt now that they may be cultivated with as much certainty of success as any other vegetable. There may be many subscribers to your useful paper who would be benefited by the above information. It is written in much haste, and my time so much occupied, I am not able to revise it. If you shall deem it of any consequence, you are at liberty to make any use of it you think proper.

Respectfully yours, H. N. Fargo.

Sherburne, March 22, 1836.

Seed Corn,

That is steeped preparatory to planting, should not be suffered to dry on the surface of the ground, or by exposure too long to the sun, but should be buried in the earth while moist. In our last spring's planting, after finishing one field, which came up well, the seed was left exposed a day, in a basket, to the sun, and planted the day following. Much of this seed failed to vegetate, and some of that which grew, had a sickly, dwarfish appearance through the season. The like happened to Mr. Weston, of Washington, and Mr. Brewster of Oneida. Another gentleman has informed us, that he planted steeped seed; that the three first rows were covered immediately, but that the remainder was not covered until the whole field had been dropped, and the seed become dry. The three rows came up and grew well; the residue came up but imperfectly, and the plants they produced were inferior and dwarfish. The cause of these failures may be thus explained: Germination had commenced in the steep—a chemical change had taken place in the cotyledons, in the matter which feeds and sustains the young plant till it develops its leaves, and can take care of itself,—and by the subsequent drying, this nutriment was partially or wholly destroyed, and the corn failed to grow, or grew but feebly, for want of it. Where germination is stopped, after it has commenced, for want of moisture, the vitality of the seed cannot be again resuscitated. We have had seed corn, after it had been steeped, keep good in a basket five days, in a cellar, where it sprouted, and was afterwards planted, and grew well.—*Ib.*

The House-Wife.--Preserving Butter.

Believing that butter may be kept sweet and good, in our climate, almost any length of time, if properly manufactured, and well taken care of, in order to test the validity of this opinion, we had two pots put down, one in June, and the other in August, 1834, and on probing them with a tryer, while penning this article, the butter is found perfectly sweet, and seems to retain most of its original flavor and freshness. We design to send both pots to Boston next fall, with a view of having its mode of manufacture, and method of preservation, judged of by the butter tasters of that notable city.

In the manufacturing process, *no water is permitted to come in contact with the cream or butter*—because it is believed that water, and particularly soft water, dissipates much of the fine flavor that gives to butter its high value. The Orange co. Dairy Women say, "give us good hard water and we will make good butter," for the reason, probably, that it abstracts less of the aroma from the butter than soft water. The temperature of the cream may be regulated by cold or hot water put into a tub, in which the churn may be plunged. If the cream is clean, it needs no washing; and if the butter is dirty, water will never clean it.

Nothing but good well pulverized salt is used in preserving the butter; this is *all* mixed, and *all* dissolved, in the mass, before the butter has its second, thorough, and final working with the butter ladle, and which is not finished till *all* the buttermilk is expelled.

To avoid all taint from the butter vessels, and the better to exclude it from the air, which soon injures it, the butter is packed close in clean stone jars, and when nearly filled, is covered with a strong brine, rendered pure by previous boiling, skimming and settling. In 20 months this brine has been twice renewed, on the appearance of a film upon the surface of the old pickle. To preserve butter, air and water, and heat above 65 or 70 degrees, are to be guarded against as much as possible. The brine upon the surface does not penetrate the mass, nor while sweet taint it; but it thoroughly excludes the air.—*Ib.*

Pasture for Swine.

A lot of land well seeded down to clover is wanted by good cultivators for pasturing swine. The quantity of land should be so proportioned to the number of swine that they may keep the grass from going to seed. This will prevent waste, and the shorter the grass is the sweeter it will be, and the more pleasant food to the animals for whose use it is destined. The pig pasture should have a good supply of water, and running water is to be preferred to still water, but the latter is better than none. Hogs should not be permitted to run in their summer pasture till about the first of May; and they should be well ringed, or the gristle of their noses should be shaved off before they are allowed that liberty.—*Ib.*

To Cure the Swelling of the Throat in Hogs.

In order to contribute to the usefulness of your valuable periodical, and to inform the public of what I find from experience to be an infallible cure for a certain disease with hogs, viz: the swelling of the throat, I herewith send you a recipe for this disease, with a desire that you publish the same in your work, if you deem it of any import, and the same meets your approbation.

Take of melasses one half a pint, and a table spoon full of hog's lard, to this add of brimstone a piece an inch in lengh. Melt it over the fire, and when cold, or in a liuquid state, drench the hog with it, and nine times out of ten it will be found to have the desired effect.

My hogs were affected with this disease during the past year, and I found the above to be effective when all things else failed.—*Cor. of Far. Register.*

The Lyons Argus says the wheat in that county has been extremely injured by the severity of the past season, so much so that an ordinary crop can hardly be expected.

Meteorological Table,

KEPT AT ROCHESTER, FOR APRIL, 1836.

Days.	10 A. M. therm.	10 A. M. barometer.	10 A. M. winds.	10 A. M. sky.	10 P. M. therm.	10 P. M. barometer.	10 P. M. winds.	10 P. M. sky.
1	54	29,70	S	cloudy	44	29,65	S E	cloudy*b*
2	50	29,55	N E	fair	44	29,50	N E	fair
3	54	29,50	N	do	48	29,45	E	do
4	46	29,50	N E	do	38	29,55	N	do
5	34	29,65	N	do*a*	30	29,75	N E	do
6	36	29,80	N E	do	30	29,80	N W	do
7	42	29,75	S W	do	45	29,65	S W	do
8	64	29,50	S	do	57	29,40	W	cloudy*j*
9	42	29,30	N E	cloudy*b*	33	29,24	N E	do*k*
10	28	29,45	N W	do*c*	28	29,70	N W	do
11	32	29,80	N W	fair	29	29,90	N W	fair
12	38	29,95	S	do	35	29,80	E	do
13	38	29,30	S E	cloudy*a*	41	29,15	S E	cloudy*k*
14	40	29,20	W	do*b*	32	29,40	N W	do*l*
15	44	29,55	N E	do*c*	48	29,75	S W	fair
16	38	29,65	W	fair	44	29,70	E	do
17	58	29,65	S	do	50	29,50	S	cloudy*g*
18	63	29,40	S	do*f*	46	29,65	W	do
19	44	29,80	N W	do	30	29,85	N W	fair
20	57	29,85	S	do	34	29,60	S	do
21	66	29,30	S	do	36	29,25	N W	cloudy*m*
22	30	29,75	N W	do*g*	54	29,70	W	do
23	46	29,45	W	cloudy	38	29,70	W	fair
24	42	29,95	N E	fair*h*	36	29,30	N E	do*n*
25	30	29,95	S E	do	57	29,50	S	do
26	76	29,40	S W	do*g*	53	29,50	N	do
27	48	29,85	N W	do	45	29,85	W	do
28	66	29,85	E	do	50	29,80	N E	cloudy*o*
29	59	29,55	S W	cloudy	48	29,80	N E	do*b*
30	59	29,90	N	fair	51	29,90	W	fair

MEAN.—Ther. 44.8—Bar. 29.62—Rain 3.6 in.—Snow 2 inches.

a Genesee River high—*b* rainy—*c* snow ½ inch—*d* rainy, snow at sunrise 1 inch—*e* spring water 46°—*f* blustering—*g* high wind—*h* hard frost—*j* thunder and lightning—*k* rainy all day—*l* sleet and rain all day—*m* thunder storm, high wind—*n* water let into the canal—*o* hazy, very little rain.

INDESTRUCTIBLE VARNISH.—Mr. John Oxford has shown that naptha, or the essential oil of coal-tar, purified and saturated with chlorine is converted into a fixed oil of a clear and red color, which becomes as thick as jelly in cold weather. One part of oil, two parts of white lead, one of purified lime, and one of coal-tar ground together, form a paint which will resist all the agents by which the substances to which it is applied are liable to be attacked, and also preserves wood from worms.

An extensive paper-mill, together with a saw mill and several out houses were destroyed by fire at Zanesville, O. on the morning of the 1st instant. Loss $15,000. Insurance $5000.

Look out for Counterfeits.—Five dollar bills of the Waldo Bank, Belfast, have made their appearance. They are well executed.

Surveying and Engineering.

THE snbscriber has opened an Office for the above business in S. O. Smith's building, opposite the Eagle Tavern, Buffalo-st., where endeavor to attend to all the calls in his profession. SILAS CORNELL.

Rochester 5th mo. 2d, 1836. a6tr4w

Improved Stock,

TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AT HYDE PARK, *The Residence of the late Dr. Hosack,*

SOME most valuable stock of the IMPROVED DURHAM SHORT HORNS, and some of Mixed Blood. It consists of several Bulls, several most excellent Cows, distinguished for their milking properties; and some Young Stock. The character of this stock is of the best description; they are of pure blood; and their pedigree and history will be given at the time of sale. There will likewise be offered one hundred Bakewell Sheep; full bred, and in good condition. The sale will take place on the 20th of May current. A rare and most favorable chance will thus be offered to those persons disposed to improve their stock. May 5, 1836.

Seed Agencies at Geneseo and Canandaigua.

MR. J. F. WYMAN, Merchant, Geneseo, and Dr. JAMES B. DUNGAN, Druggist, Canandaigua, have each an assortment of Seeds for sale, put up at the Rochester Seed Store. apr 30-f3t

THE SILK CULTURIST

AND FARMER'S MANUAL.

Published monthly by the Executive Committee of the Hartford County Silk Society, at 50 cents per annum. Volumes I. and II.

THE object of this publication is to disseminate a thorough knowledge of the Silk business. The cultivation of the *Mulberry* Tree in all its varieties—rearing Silk Worms—the production of Cocoons—reeling and manufacturing Silk, and Dyeing the same. The publication will contain a complete manual of the Silk Culture from sowing the seed to preparing for market—Sewing Silk and Twist—and will keep the Culturist advised with regard to the progress of the enterprise—the formation of Societies and Companies, Enactments of Legislatures for the promotion of the object, and facts, and experiments of individuals. It will also contain choice articles on new and interesting subjects connected with agriculture.

THE CULTURIST was commenced in April last, and there are now published *Five Thousand Copies* monthly, with a rapidly increasing circulation. Arrangements have been made to furnish the first volume to those who make early application for the second. Each volume will contain ninety-six quarto pages. One dollar forwarded to F. G. COMSTOCK, Secretary, Hartford, Conn. free of expense, will pay for both volumes, or fifty cents for the latter. The second volume commences the first of April. No subscriptions received unless paid in advance.

Knowing the great difficulty of obtaining genuine Seed at a distance, the Secretary of the Society will forward *White Italian Mulberry Seed for* 1000 *Trees* to those who are subscribers to the First Volume and order the *Second*, and to those who subscribe for both Volumes before the first of July next.

Hartford, Conn. April, 1836.

☞ REYNOLDS & BATEHAM, Agents, Rochester. april 16

From the Maine Farmer.

On Cycles and the Seasons.

Mr. Holmes:—By a Cycle I mean a circle or complete round of time. To establish the truth of the doctrine of cycles, I shall premise that a little less than nineteen years has been found to be a complete round of seasons. I will consider periods of nineteen years and see what has taken place in regard to heats and colds and have the reader infer what may hereafter be expected. First, 1835, except the sixty days in the fall which I attribute to the influence of the comet, was a very cold year.

Subtract 19 years from 1835 and you have 1816—The coldest day ever known in New England. Subtract 19 years from 1816 and you have 1797 which was a cold year. Subtract 19 years from 1797, and you have 1778. At this period the coldest year was 1777, when the people of New England suffered almost a famine. Corn Cobs were boiled, and the broth drank, Oats ground and made into bread. Flax seed was also ground and made use of for food in 1778, and many lived six weeks on milk alone. Deduct 19 years more and you have 1759, the time, if I mistake not, of what is called the "Old French war," and the year, I believe, when Cape Breton was taken. It was before my remembrance, but I have often heard of its being a cold year.

Now let us take the years of great heat. 1831 was a year of uncommon heat. Deduct 19 from that and you have 1812. In the fall of 1811 the great comet appeared, and the heat was oppressive, and it continued hot for the time of year into 1812. After the comet passed off south, as usual, the wind was mostly north. Deduct 19 from 1812 and you have 1793 which was a hot season on this continent—tho' 1793 which was hottest in New England or this part of it. The year 1793 was the year that the yellow fever raged in Philadelphia and elsewhere. Deduct 19 from the last number and you have 1774, the year previous to the American Revolution, all the old soldiers now living remember the hot years of 1774 and '75. The year succeeding the cold year has always been productive; 1778 and 1817, I well remember, and they were the most productive years I ever knew. Why were they so? Is there any one satisfactory reason to be given? the fact will be admitted by all that remember the years. I will mention what I consider to be a few of the combined reasons, for I do not consider that it depends on any one cause alone. The first is this. In the cold years which preceded the years 1778—1798 and 1817 the earth had in a measure rested or produced small crops.

The cold years were all dry years. The year succeeding a drouth is thought by some to be more productive. May not another cause be in the seed. The most perfect seed of the small grains is produced in cold seasons when they ripen slowly and are carried to the greatest maturity. I take it to be true that nothing of the small grains ought to be sowed but the best of the kinds fully ripened. And I will here beg leave to digress from the main subject and say that the only hope of deriving much advantage from an exchange of seeds, is to take them from a mountainous country to a flat and sandy one, and the reverse. In a flat and sandy country the small grain tend every year to grow smaller in the straw and to ripen earlier in the season. The remedy seems to be to exchange with those from mountainous parts. Indian corn, Pumpkins, &c. may do best to be acclimated or the season may not be long enough for ripening them. The exchange of wheat from the mountainous parts to the level may be more advantageous than any other grains, but one should be careful not to procure a worse article than his own. W***

Elder Tree.

Sir J. E. Smith has remarked that this tree is as it were a whole magazine of physic to rustic practitioners. It is said that if sheep that have the rot can get at the bark and young shoots of elder they will soon cure themselves. The wine made from elder berries is too well known by families in the country to need any encomiums; it is the only wine a cottager can procure, and when well made, it is a most excellent and wholesome drink, taken warm before going to bed. It causes gentle perspiration, and is a mild opiate. If a rich syrup be made from ripe elder berries, and a few bitter almonds, when added to brandy, it has all the flavor of the best cherry brandy. The white elder berries, when ripe, make wine much resembling grape wine. The buds and the young tender shoots are greatly admired as pickle. The leaves of the elder tree are often put into the subterranean paths of moles, to drive those noxious little animals from the garden. If fruit trees, flowering shrubs, corn or other vegetables, be wipped with the green leaves of the elder branches, it is said that insects will not attach themselves to them. An infusion of these leaves in water is good to sprinkle over rose-buds, and other flowers subject to blight, and the devastations of caterpillers.—*Leigh Hunt's London Journal.*

Potatoes for Breakfast.

In the first place, when you boil potatoes for dinner, pare enough for dinner and breakfast, and throw a little salt into the water in which they are boiled. When done, pour out the water carefully, and let the potatoes stand a few minutes. You will find your dinner much better than if they were boiled the common way without paring. Take what are left, mash them with a little cream and salt, while warm, and put them in a bake-pan. In the morning you have only to set your dish in the stove, or before a brisk fire for a few minutes. You will find it excellent. Some use butter instead of cream, but the *genuine* article is prepared only by the latter. Ask the *Grahamites.—Vermont Chronicle.*

Singular.

A whirlwind of sand, says the Havre Journal of 15th Feb., about 5 or 6000 feet circumference, and from 450 to 500 feet in height, formed itself on the road along the coast from Calais to Dunkirk, and took a direction towards the sea, where it burst at the distance of about a league. A small fishing boat was overturned by it, but the crew was happily saved.

WILLIAM ATKINSON,
REAL ESTATE BROKER,
17, *Exchange-street, Rochester.*

BUYS and sells Farms and City Property on commission, and attends to the collection of Mortgages.

☞ Several valuable Farms for sale.
February, 1836 feb 20f6m*

Robbins' Planting Machine.

WITH this Machine Corn, Beans, Peas, Broom Corn, Mangel Wurtzel, Turneps, Onions, and seeds of almost every description, can be planted with more system and correctness than can be done in the usual manner of planting with the hand and hoe. One man may easily plant five acres a day, placing the seeds any given distance apart, from two or more inches, and in rows two and a half feet apart.

Machines can be had by applying to Reynolds & Bateham, Rochester; C. N. Bement, Treasurer of the State Agricultural Society, Albany; Bushrod Buck, Lanesborough, Berkshire county, Mass.; and Daniel T. Buck, Lowville, Lewis county, agent and proprietor for making and vending said machines, at all of which places it is intended to keep a supply on hand
Lowville, Nov. 24, 1835. nov 28–6m

Seed Corn.

A LARGE supply of the early 12 rowed or Dutton Corn in the ear, just received at the Rochester Seed Store.

The gentleman who raised this corn writes, that "It was planted from the 18th to the 20th May—cut up on the hill from 5th to 25th Sept.—yield from 85 to 95 bushels per acre—stalks one third less than common 8 rowed yellow, and 14 days earlier."

Also—The other varieties for sale as usual.

Orders for the above and other seeds will receive prompt attention, and should be sent immediately.
apr 30–fif REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Ely's Vineyard,

HALF a mile east of the Court-House, and 20 rods north of Main street, where may be had various kinds of Grape Vines, from one to six years' growth, at various prices, from one dollar down to six cents, according to the age and quality of the vine. Also Grape Vine Cuttings.

Also—Plum, Pear, Peach, Apple, and Locust Trees, and Shrubbery of different kinds.

The infirmities incipent to old age, induces me to offer the premises for *SALE*. The lot contains two acres of land, handsomely laid out, the center part mostly filled with grape vines, surrounded with fruit trees and shrubbery—the whole nearly inclosed by a board fence and a locust hedge.

Notwithstanding the unprecented cold and frosty weather, we gathered more than 4,000 lbs. of grapes the last season. Had the season been usually good, we probably should have obtained as many as 6,000 lbs. One vine had more 1500 clusters, and we gathered 220 lbs of grapes. Had they ripened well there would have been a great addition to the weight, for as it was, many rotted on the ground. There is a decent and convenient Dwelling House on the lot nearly finished.

An indisputable title will be given, and payments made easy.

If the place is not sold, it will be let on shares for the ensuing season. ALEXANDER ELY.
Rochester, April 7, 1836. ap 9–fif

Flower Seeds and Plants.

IN addition to their former stock, the subscribers are now receiving a new supply of Flower Seeds, including many rare and extremely beautiful varieties never before introduced here. Price, 6 cents a paper—20 varieties for $1, 50 varieties for $2, 100 varieties for $4.

DOUBLE DAHLIA ROOTS.

A fine assortment from the unrivaled collection of Messrs. Buel & Wilson, Albany. These will be potted and ready for sale in a few days.

GREEN-HOUSE OR PARLOR PLANTS.

A splendid collection in a fine healthy condition for sale at low prices.
apr 30–fif REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Mangel Wurtzel & Turnep Seeds.

A LARGE importation of superior Mangel Wurtzel, White Field, and other Turnep Seeds, together with a fine lot of English Garden Seeds, of the growth of 1835, just received at the Rochester Seed Store.

We are confident these seeds will prove of the first quality, and they will be afforded at a less price than heretofore.
may 7 REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Broom Corn.

20 BUSHELS New England Broom Corn Seed just received at the Rochester Seed Store. may 7

Seed Oats.

50 BUSHELS English Oats of American growth, weighing 38 lbs. the bushel, for sale at the Rochester Seed Store. Price 65 cts. per bushels. may 7

Monroe Horticultural Garden & Nursery.

THE subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, &c. &c.

ALSO—A few hundred of the Morus Multicaulis, or Chinese Mulberry, the White Italian Mulberry by the hunbred or thousand, Grape Vines of both native and foreign varieties, mosty of large size, for sale by the single vine, hundred or thousand, at reduced prices. The subscriber has a large collection of Green-House Plants of choice and select varieties, and in good condition.

☞ Orders for *Mr.* Rowe's Nursery received by the Publisher of this paper.

Catalogues will be sent to those who wish them, gratis, or may be had by calling at the office of the Genesee Farmer. ASA ROWE.
Greece, *Monroe* co. N.S Y. ept. 13, 1835.